

Douglas F. Blackledge

Douglas F. Blackledge, age 45, passed away at home in January 2016. The son of Michael A. Blackledge and the late Helen Margaret Faust of Silver City, NM, Doug graduated from Manzano High School in Albuquerque before entering the [U.S. Air Force](#) Academy in 1988 and later graduating with his BS degree in Electrical Engineering in 1992. Doug served his country for many years as Air Force HH-60G helicopter Combat Search and Rescue pilot, as well as instructor, before receiving his final assignment to [Patrick Air Force base](#) in 2011 as Chief of Plans and Programs in support of the Human Space Flight program. It was there that he met and married his wife, Suzanne Stay Blackledge, in 2013, retiring from the Air Force shortly afterwards to pursue their mutual love of water sports and travel, including their annual trips to the West Coast to snorkel for scallops and comb the beaches together in search of shark teeth. Doug was also working diligently toward his goal of obtaining his Masters degree in Finance.

In addition to Suzanne, Doug also leaves behind his beloved border collie mix, Tyson, who brought him so much joy on their dog beach visits and "squirrel scouting" adventures.

No formal services are scheduled, but there are plans for an upcoming celebration of Doug's life here in Florida... including a paddle out ceremony to disperse his ashes among the dolphins and manatees whose antics continued to mesmerize him until his final days. If desired, contributions can be made in Doug's memory to the ASPCA to support his fascination with animals of all kinds.

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